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THE
Finish'd Rake;
OR,
Gallantry in Perfection.
BEING THE
Genuine and Entertaining
ADVENTURES,
OF A
Young Gentleman of Fortune.

FAITHFULLY

Extracted from Memoirs written with his own
Hand, and design'd by him to be publish'd, as
is believed, had he not been prevented by Death.

THE WHOLE

Being interspers'd with several Curious, Whim-
fical, and Uncommon Incidents; particularly his
Intrigue with a fine COQUETTE MILLINER,
near one of our most Noted Inns of Court, whilst he
was a Student.

— *Women, born to be controul'd,
Stoop to the Forward and the Bold;
But yet you know they seldom fail,
To make the stoutest Men turn Tail;
And bravely scorn to turn their Backs
Upon the desperat'st Attacks.* HUD.

L O N D O N:

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T H E

Finish'd Rake;

O R,

Gallantry in Perfection.

IT is customary for Persons, whose Actions have made some Noise in the World, to have their Lives transmitted down to Posterity; and that by those who are wholly unqualified for such an Undertaking, being generally such as have been altogether unacquainted with the People whose Histories they pretend to write, only through common Report, and consequently must take all their Accounts upon Trust. To avoid the like Fate after my Decease, I thought proper, with my own Hand, to throw together the most remarkable Transactions of my Life, tho' no Man living has a greater Aversion to Scribbling than myself.

I had besides this another View in so doing, which is, that as my Adventures have been very uncommon, and most of them have carried their own Punishment along with them,

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they may serve as a Warning to deter other People from following my Example; lest they should meet with the same Misfortunes, and be made sensible, like me, to their Cost, that the best that can be expected from a dissolute Life, is a *broken Constitution*, and an *incumber'd Estate*, not to mention a *lost Character*, and *perpetual Remorse*, if they have the good Fortune to escape *utter Ruin*.

As the Adventures of my Childhood cannot be supposed to have been worthy my Readers Attention, I shall not detain them long therewith, but only premise in General, That I am the only Son of a Gentleman of a considerable Estate, who spared no Expence in my Education; being so old fashioned as to think, that a Man might be at the same Time a good Scholar, and a fine Gentleman, and that all Accomplishments and good Breeding, were not included in a *Tupée*, or a *Solitaire*: In short, he was no great Friend to your mere *Petits Maitres*, whose *whole Merit* consists in their *Dress*; accordingly he took Care I should both be able to *read*, *write*, and *spell tolerably*, before he sent me to Travel; which is more than many can say, who were of a more *distinguished Rank* and *Fortune* than myself. At School I was remarkable for being very ready at my Book, and as ready at all manner of Mischief; insomuch, that tho' I never had, nor indeed wanted, any Correction for the former, I frequently suffer'd in the
Flesh

Flesh for the latter, and I cannot but say that generally I richly deserved it.

Whilst I was under the Discipline of the *Ferula*, I committed one Prank, which for its Singularity deserves to be here mentioned, and which sufficiently shewed, even in my tender Years, that I would bear no Controul, and that I should be a *finish'd Libertine* : It was as follows.

Amongst all the Grievances under which I labour'd at School, none sat so heavy upon me, or went so much against the Grain, as the narrow Bounds to which my Master confined us who boarded with him : He having purchased a small Field for us to play in, to be seen beyond which would have been a *capital* and *unpardonable Crime* : Accordingly the boldest of the Scholars had never dared transgress the afore said Limits, it being more dreaded by them, than the passing the *Rubicon* was by the *Roman Army*.

Whilst in the lower Forms, I was forced to submit patiently to this Confinement, like the Rest, tho' I look'd upon it as a *great Invasion of the Liberty of the Subject*, and *murmur'd at it heartily* within myself. But, when I came to be *Monitor* of the School, the Case was alter'd, and I soon form'd a Scheme not only to enlarge my Privileges, but to break through all Bounds whatsoever.

I have already observed that I took my Learning very readily, for which Reason my Master used often to employ me to hear the

under Boys their Lessons, which I could do as well as himself. In Time he would intrust the Care of the whole School to me for an Afternoon, and finding me very capable thereof, and not averse to it, would at last leave it to me for a Day or two, or more; in short I did the Business of an *Usher*, and was (if I may use that Expression) his *prime Minister*.

This was what I wanted; I had soon the Sense to perceive he could not do well without me; wherefore, as I was so useful to him, I resolved he should likewise conform to my Measures, and at least *connive at*, if not *openly consent to*, the *extraordinary Liberties* I should take; having (as I well knew) but this Alternative; either to give me my Will, or be at the Expence of keeping an *Usher*, unless he would confine himself never to be a Moment out of the School, a Fatigue which would have been worse than Death to him.

Accordingly one Evening, when a Troop of Horse came into the Town, and I knew my Master was there likewise, I very fairly walked up into the Market-Place, where they were to be drawn up, before they filed off to their Quarters. My Master, when he saw me there, could scarce believe his Eyes; however he took no notice of me for the Present, being fully determined to make me dearly repent my Insolence when he came Home, but he reckoned without his Host, as he found afterwards.

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I had not long been got back to his Habitation, before he followed, and sending for me, asked me, with a stern Look, the Meaning of my Excursion: To this I immediately answered, without being in the least daunted; that being as useful to him as an *Usher*, I expected more Liberty than the rest of the Scholars; that my Father did not send me to him to look after his School; and that, in short, he might chuse which he pleased, either to allow me reasonable Liberties, take an *Usher*, or stay at home always and look after School himself.

Never was Man more surprized than my Master, at such a blunt Speech from a Boy not quite fifteen; he raged and stormed like any *Bedlamite*, gave me several Cuffs on the Ear, and vow'd he would slay me alive next Morning for my Impudence: I told him very calmly, that as to that indeed, he might use his Pleasure, but that the first Time he turned his Back he should find his School in an Up-roar; besides which, I would acquaint my Parents with the Cause of my being so used, who would not fail to send me where I should not lose my Time in teaching others.

This last Threat brought my Master to Compliance, tho' he did not think proper to let me know it that Night; but next Morning, sending for me into his Chamber, he began to expostulate with me about the Liberty I had taken so abruptly the Night before; telling me he would not have denied me any thing

thing in Reason, if I had asked his Leave, but that I directly flew in the Face of Authority, and was an actual Rebel; however, he concluded, he was willing to pardon me in Consideration of my having always minded my Studies, and would even wink at my taking the Liberty I desired, provided I never made an ill Use of it, and he heard no Complaint of me; but that to save Appearances he would seem to be very angry, and I must ask his Pardon before the rest of the Boys. To this I readily agreed; so I got the better of my Master, obtained all the Liberty I desired, and led a very pleasant Life, till my Father thought fit to remove me to the University, which he did in about six Months.

Tho' I was but a Younger when I enter'd at *Cambridge*, I soon distinguished my self there for a Lad of Mettle, being always ready to make one when any unlucky Prank was propos'd, and, which was very agreeable to me, I seldom wanted an Opportunity to signalize myself by some new Roguery. Indeed I had little else to do, for as I was perfectly well grounded in the Classics before I went thither, I could perform most of my Exercises almost off-hand, and my Tutor was such a dull Wretch, that I could learn nothing from him, so that I was entirely my own Master, and had Time enough for all manner of Mischief, as the Town often found to their Cost.

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As I was very Young, not being quite sixteen, when I went to the University, and very few are enter'd there so soon, I met with not many Companions of my own Age, but was forced to associate myself with such as, tho' they were of the same Standing with myself, were arriv'd at Man's Estate: These took a great deal of Pleasure in prompting me to all manner of Debauchery by their own Examples, to which I was naturally but too prone of myself, without any Instigation.

Amongst the Rest, they did not forget to initiate me in the *Mysteries of Venus*, in which I soon grew a great Proficient, no *Laundress*, nor *Bed-maker*, if she was tolerable, being able to escape me: Not that I was entirely a Novice before, as far as *Hands* or *Eyes* could go, the Maids at School (thank 'em) having been pretty *communicative* of their *most secret Charms*, as far as they thought they durst venture without danger of a *Tell-tale*; which had like to have brought me into an ugly Scrape, had not my Master been one of a Thousand.

The Maids, who used to cut our Suppers; being at other Business, my Mistress one Summer's Evening went into the Pantry to parcel out our Allowances: Whilst she was thus employ'd, in came I from play, and running into the Pantry which was somewhat dark, whipt my Hand up her Coats, taking her for one of the Wenches, and caught her by the
SOFT ANVIL on which all Mankind were
hammer'd,

hammer'd, before she was aware of my Intention, having been used to that Sport with those saucy Sluts her Servants. *Very well, Sir*, said she, crying out with Surprize, *You are a mighty pretty Gentleman, I shall take Care to acquaint your Master with your Impudence.*

A Thunder-bolt falling at my Foot could not have surprized or frighten'd me more, than the hearing her Voice; I gave myself over for lost, and expected no less than to be flay'd alive next Morning, not doubting but she would be as good as her Word, because I never had been one of her Favourites. However I never heard any more of it, and imagined she had been so good-humour'd as to conceal it, till a little before I left School; when my Master's Mother assured me she had told him of it with all the aggravating Circumstances imaginable, and before Company; altho' he never had taken any notice thereof to me. It was certainly very well judged of him, and very generous; for a moderate Correction would not have sufficed for such an Affront, and he was unwilling to proceed to Extremes with me, being sensible I did not mean it to his Wife, and that I should not even have ventured to take such Liberties with the Wenches, had not they first given me Encouragement by their Impudence: And indeed I can't help observing hereupon, that I believe more Boys are spoiled by profligate Sluts at a Boarding-School, than by any other
 Thing

Thing whatsoever : It were to be wished therefore, that none were hired into such Places, but such as have the best of Characters.

To return from whence I have Digressed, I observed above that I had Time enough at the University for all manner of Mischief; accordingly there was seldom any piece of Roguery committed in College wherein I had not a Hand, if I was not the first Contriver thereof. But of all my Pranks whilst I continued there, none, I think, comes up to the Trick I play'd a Butcher, who was perpetually making Complaints of one or other of our Scholars, and was for that Reason heartily hated by the whole College. One Day above all the rest, when this Fellow had been preferring some fresh Accusation against three or four of us, the Parties aggrieved were wishing heartily for an Opportunity to be revenged of the old Rogue. As I happened to be in their Company, I told them, that if they would follow my Advice, I would put them in a way, not only to be thoroughly revenged of him, but prevent his ever coming to make any Complaints for the Future. Follow your Advice, said they : Aye, with all our Hearts, if you would but be as good as your Word ; but which way would you go about it ? Oh, very easily, replied I, keep but your own Counsel, and meet me to Night about Ten a Clock at the *Rose*.

They still continued very instant with me, to tell them what I design'd to do. Where-

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upon taking them to my Chambers, the back Windows of which look'd directly upon the Butcher's House, I shew'd them a fine Calf which he had just kill'd, and hung up in his Yard, with intent to cut up for Sale at Market next Day. Do you see that Calf there, said I; yes, answer'd they, what of that? What of that, you Fools? Why, if you will be ruled by me, we will steal it from him this very Night, and then I think you will be pretty well even with him. Aye, but said they, How is it possible? Oh, let me alone for that, replied I, and only do as I direct you, and all will be well; I will engage he never comes to complain more.

Every thing being thus agreed on, I went to the College Cook, and secured him in our Interest; after which, at the Hour appointed, I went to the Place of Rendezvous, provided with a supernumerary Fellow-Commoner's Gown and Hat, a Rope-Ladder, and a dark Lanthorn. I there found my Companions, whom I acquainted succinctly how I design'd to put our Project in Execution, which they all approved; after which, drinking a couple of Bottles of Wine, and waiting till we thought all the Family were fast asleep, we marched very quietly to the Butcher's Yard.

Having fastened our Rope-Ladder, three of us soon got over the Wall, and in an Instant unhook'd the Calf, which hung under a Shed, and handed it over to our Companions, who were on the other Side to receive it. Then dressing

dress'ing the Calf up in the Fellow-Commoner's Habit, and two of us supporting it on each side, whilst one walk'd before with the Lanthorn, we began our March to the College-Gate, which was not above thirty Paces from the Butcher's House.

As I was a Fellow-Commoner and the rest of my Companions but Pensioners, 'twas agreed I should knock at the College-Gate, which I accordingly did, and the Porter coming to open it with a Candle and Lanthorn as usual, (for the Nights were exceeding dark) I made a Stumble as if accidentally, and kick'd the Lanthorn into the middle of the Quadrangle. The Porter had just had glimpse enough of my Companions, to perceive they were supporting something in a Gown, whereupon taking it for a Gentleman that used very often to come in drunk, and kept late Hours: Very well, Mr. *Such-a-one*, says he, naming him; you think I don't see you, but I do, and shall take Care to acquaint the Master therewith to-morrow.

In the mean while my Companions made the best of their Way, with their Purchase, to the College Kitchen, where the Cook was waiting for us; whilst I staid behind a little to amuse the Porter, and help to look for his Lanthorn, after which I hasten'd after them and delivered the Cow's Baby up to the Cook's Discretion, who soon disposed of it in such a Manner, as it would have puzzled

all the Fortune-tellers in *England* to have given any Tale or Tidings of it.

It would be impossible to describe the Up-roar that was at the Butcher's next Morning, as soon as the Calf was missing: How any Persons cou'd get into his Yard, the Walls being pretty high, and when there, how they could get the Calf over, or when over, how they could carry it off, was a piece of Conjurat-ion that pass'd their Understanding; and as the *Cambridge* and *Oxford* Scholars have long been thought by the Ignorant to deal with the Devil, the Butcher and his Family were now almost tempted to believe it, for 'twas unanimously agreed that it could be done by none but some of our College, who ow'd him a Grudge; and so far indeed they were in the Right.

Hereupon away goes the Butcher open-mouth'd to the Master of our College, with a Complaint that some of us had robb'd him of a fine Calf. This Story appeared so improbable, that the Master star'd the Man full in the Face, and thought him crack-brain'd; however, as the Fellow persisted in it, and made a sad Noise, he sent for the Porter, and enquired who was out late the Night before, and whether he saw any of us bring in any large Bundle.

The Porter, as well he might, answer'd in the Negative, little thinking the Calf was turn'd *Fellow-Commoner*; to satisfy the the Fellow, who was very importunate, a
thorough

thorough Search was made throughout the College, but no Signs nor Tokens were to be found of the Theft; for, although good part of the Calf was at that very Time roasting in the College Kitchen, they were very far from suspecting it to be the Calf in Question, not in the least imagining that the Cook was an Accomplice with us.

Hereupon the Master flew into a violent Passion with the Butcher, and threaten'd to send him to the Castle, if ever he came to trouble him with any more Complaints against us; the poor Fellow, thus snubb'd was forced to pocket up his Loss, nor durst ever after pester us with any Complaints, whatever Cause he had for so doing, tho' he often had sufficient Reason.

Two Years I continued at the University, after which my Father removed me to the *Temple*, where instead of studying the Law, I study'd nothing but *Intriguing*, in which I soon grew a great Proficient, and as I had a very handsome Allowance from my Father, I flew at a higher Game than when at *Cambridge*, so that a Spruce Laundress would hardly go down with me, I was grown so very nice and difficult.

I had not been long at the *Temple*, before I resolved to single out a *Coquette* Milliner, who was the *reigning Toast* of all the *Petits Maitres* in that contentious District, as the *Fair One* to whom I would first make my Addresses: No sooner had I taken this Resolution, but I
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put it in Execution; and going thither directly under Colour of buying a pair of Gloves, took that Opportunity of complimenting her upon the Number of her Conquests (for her Shop was like a *Prime Minister's Levee*,) and the Superiority of her Charms over those of her Rivals, the Vintners pretty Bar-keepers, the Coffee-House Sparklers, and her Sister Milliners and Sempstresses about the Bar.

She returned my Compliment in such a Manner, as shewed me this was a Language she was pretty much used to, and that she did not think it was a jot more than she deserv'd; at the same Time I could plainly perceive, that like her Sister *Coquetts*, she was not at all displeased at seeing the Number of her Admirers increased, for which Reason (as I imagine) she smiled upon me graciously at parting, that she might not lose her new Conquest, by putting me out of all Hopes.

After this I frequented her Shop very often, making use still of the same Pretence of buying several Trifles, for which I was sure to pay through the Nose; nevertheless I never thought it advisable to dispute with her whatever Price she set upon her Goods, being firmly resolved, if possible, to make her repay it me with Interest, tho' in *another sort of Coin*; which was not however, the easiest Task I had ever undertaken.

The Gipsy was indeed very pretty, and knew it well enough to set a very extraordinary Value

Value upon her Charms; besides this, she did not want for Wit, or at least had a ready way of Talking, and a competent Assurance, which is too often mistaken for the other; especially in a Woman whom one admires, and who has a tolerable Person to set it off. Then she valued herself upon an uncomatable Virtue, a great Insensibility of Love, and a perfect Indifference for all her Adorers; thro' all which any one might easily perceive, that her Design was to catch at the first *Butter-Fly* who had a tolerable Estate, was *Fool* enough to fall heartily in Love with her, and *Noodle* enough to run Hand-over-Head, and marry her without any farther Consideration.

Having gain'd the Insight into her Ladyship's Temper and Designs, I proceeded accordingly in my Attacks, like a Master of the Art of War, and instead of pretending to take *Love's Citadel* by Storm, changed my Siege into a Blockade, and proceeded by the way of Sapping: In short, from a vigorous brisk Lover, I grew a most obsequious whining Slave, insomuch that Madam, who had a very good Opinion of her own Charms, did not in the least question but I was smitten, and was the *Woodcock* for which she had been long lying in wait.

Accordingly she chang'd her manner of Behaviour with me, treated me more favourably than the rest of her Admirers, and granted me several Liberties which she denied them,

them; such as admitting me to drink Tea with her in her Parlour, and permitting me to treat her and her favourite Acquaintance with a Play, a Favour for which I was not a little envied by all the Gay *Templers* my Rivals, and which made me not a little Vain of the Preference I had gained over them.

I still pretended to be dying for her, continued my Visits every Day, was as ardent as ever in my Courtship, complain'd of my Pains, and talk'd of Flames and Darts as much as ever, but without declaring myself one way or other, or offering to bring Things to a Conclusion, till I found, by thus dallying with her, I had fool'd her into Love in good Earnest, and she began to be very uneasy at not knowing for certain what I was driving at, and what she had to expect from me; for she was not without Hopes that my Designs were honourable, having never as yet offer'd at taking any Liberties that could offend the most rigid Virtue; or which is still more scrupulous, the most *profess'd Prude*.

In order then to bring me to a positive Declaration, she thought it adviseable to quicken me up, and to spur me on, by making me jealous, and giving Encouragement to one Mr. B—, a *Templer*, who at that time very much frequented her Shop, was an accomplish'd young Gentleman, and indeed, but that Fancy passes Beauty, every way my Superiour.

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This was what I wanted; for although I was not actually jealous, and saw through her Design, which I attribute to my not being sincerely in Love with her, for none are so blind as those who are really intoxicated with that Passion, I pretended as much Jealousy as the most passionate Lover that ever whin'd in a Romance: This I had not done, but that it squared very well with my own Ends.

My Jealousy, however, was not so furious to make me quarrel with, and challenge every one that look'd upon my *Dulcinea* besides myself, nor yet every one she vouchsafed to smile upon; for I was still reasonable enough to know that her Interest obliged her to it: Neither did my Jealousy transport me so far, as to make me declare myself her *honourable Slave*, and insist upon her *breaking* with all other *Pretenders to her Favour*; for I well knew that then she might shut up Shop, and I must be obliged in Honour to *keep her*, after I had gained my Ends, which I thought but little better than *Matrimony*.

My Jealousy went no farther, than to sigh most inordinately, when in her Company, (for out of it I was as merry as a Cricket; a sure Sign I was Heart-whole) to look very Melancholy and Pensive, and sit sometimes as mute as a Fish for an Hour or two together. This, however, did my Business as effectually as I could have wish'd; for my Fair-One imagining that my silence proceeded from my great Dread of her Displeasure should I offer

to complain, I having always acted the timid and respectful Lover, enquired several times what ailed me, on purpose to give me an Opportunity of breaking the Ice.

Finding however, that this did not answer her Ends, she was forced at last to ask me downright, whether any Company that she kept gave me any Uneasiness ; for, said she, I have observ'd you always look particularly cloudy, whenever Mr. *B* — comes in. If that be the Case, continued she, as he professes a great Value for me, and I look upon him as a Gentleman every way qualified to make a Woman happy, and for aught I know his Designs may be honourable, I see no Reason why I should not entertain him, especially since you have never yet explained your self upon that Head, although you have had all the Liberty imaginable.

Madam, answer'd I, with a seeming Reluctancy, since you force me to speak, without which I should never have dared to open my Mouth, I shall make no scruple to own that your late Encouragement of Mr. *B* — has given me no small Uneasiness, but that is not the only, nor yet the greatest Cause of my late Trouble and Melancholy : Some Discourses which I have heard within this little while, and with which I am unwilling to wound your Ears, have created in me an Anguish which I am afraid I shall not soon get over, and which makes it necessary for me to stop where I am, without coming to any farther

ther Explanation, which I should otherwise have done before now.

What Discourses can you have heard of me, said she, with a noble Pride, that should give you any Anxiety, or with which you should be afraid of wounding my Ears? Speak out, I dare the utmost Malice of your detracting Sex; and must tell you, that I thought my Behaviour since you have known me, would have prevented your easily believing any Aspersions which any unworthy Wretch should cast upon me: However let me know them, let the Consequence be what it will.

Madam, replied I, your Commands must always be sacred to me, else would not I offend your Ears by repeating what must give you Pain, as it did me, in the Hearing; and as to what you were pleased to say, about my easily believing any Aspersions that should be cast upon you, I will assure you, I am far from believing them, and shall always do you Justice in my own Opinion; but that does not prevent their giving me infinite Disquiet; so much as I am afraid will make me miserable as long as I live, since I find it impossible, as Things stand, I should ever be happy in your Possession, which was the utmost of my Ambition, my Designs having never been otherwise than honourable.

Sir, said she, interrupting me, be pleas'd to explain your self, you talk in Riddles; I don't understand two Words of all you have

said : All that I can understand is, that I have been basely and villanously bely'd by some unworthy Villains, and that you have been pleased to believe them, for all your Pretences, else why should their Lies create any Uneasiness in you ? But come, let us hear the utmost their Malice has been able to Invent ; I can assure you it will not give me so much Pain, as you say it did you, in the hearing it.

Hereupon I told her, that being in Company with some Acquaintance, amongst other Discourse her Name happen'd to be mention'd, whether designedly or not, I could not be certain ; that thereupon some of them began to banter me upon my approaching her always with so much Timidity and Respect ; adding, that wou'd never do, for she loved a Man of more Mettle and Vigour, or else they were very much mistaken in her ; and that Mr. *H—*, naming a Gentleman who had formerly visited her, had not been so great a Favourite with her if he had behaved himself as I did ; intimating farther, that she was very much bely'd, if she had not granted him all the Favours it was in her Power to grant him.

This Story was partly true, partly false ; Mr. *H—*, who was a vain-glorious Coxcomb, and loved to give himself Airs, had visited her formerly, as I did then, on pretence his Designs were honourable ; but no sooner did she find they were otherwise, then she desired him to keep away ; upon which, in Revenge
for

for his Disappointment, he, with some others whom she had serv'd in the same Manner, trump up this malicious Aspersions which was now out of Date, and never had been believed by any Person of Credit, and Reputation; but it serv'd my purpose for the Present, as well as if it had been true.

Upon my reviving therefore the impudent Slander, one would have thought all the Blood in her Body had come into her Face; however composing herself in a little Time, and finding I was silent; And is this all (said she) this hellish Slander, which is now almost forgotten, and never was believed at first! And do you of all Men give Credit to it! How have I been deceived! But I see plainly you grow weary of my Company, and therefore have trump up this for a Pretence to leave me, which you need not have done, for as nothing has pass'd between us, but some fine Speeches, which I always took to be, as now I find them, Words of Course, you was always at Liberty, when you pleas'd, without such a barbarous Contrivance: In what a fine Condition had I been, had I been Fool enough to have believ'd you, and set my Heart upon you.

Far be any such base Thought from my Heart, Madam, said I; I have already told you I never did believe it, and I again assure you, I never can credit any Stories to your Disadvantage, but still I am nevertheless wretched; for as long as there is a Possibility

ty of my being deceiv'd, I never can be made happy in your Possession; for should I after Marriage find my self mistaken in my good Opinion of your Virtue, my Resentment wou'd transport me to some horrid Extremity, which would prove fatal to us both: And the Dread of what any such shocking Conviction wou'd transport me to, will always keep me from venturing on what otherwise I should most ardently Covet, and what would make me the happiest of Mankind.

O no Compliments, good Sir, cry'd she, interrupting me with a disdainful Air, if I cou'd contribute so much as you pretend to your Happiness, I hardly think you wou'd deny your self that Satisfaction for any foolish Scruples and Doubts that might arise in your Mind, and because there is a Possibility I may have forfeited my Honour; for the same Possibility lies against the whole Sex, and consequently you must resolve never to run the Venture: Besides, should I consent to marry you, after this Declaration, that alone ought to convince you that I am conscious of my own Innocence, for otherwise I must be worse then distracted.

All that you have said is very true, Madam, replied I, but nevertheless it is possible (not that I suppose it wou'd be the Case) that a Woman who has forfeited her Virtue, may be rash enough to run the Hazard of marrying, in hopes the Man will not be so good a
Judge

judge in such Cases to discover the Loss of her Virgin Treasure.

Sir, answered she, by what I can perceive, you are either very ingenious in tormenting your self with unjust and injurious Suspicions, or else, as I before observed, you make it a Pretence for breaking off your Visits, which you might have done without all this going about the Bush for it, for no Body will pretend to constrain you.

No, Madam, I don't imagine you will, said I, you have not the Value for me, nor is my Company so dear to you, to make you give your self the least Trouble about keeping me; I wish it was, but I am not so happy to have the Loss of me, give you the least Regret.

It is but an imprudent Part in me, reply'd she, after what has now pass'd, to confess my having had any Value for you, but I am such a Friend to Sincerity and plain Dealing, that I will freely own, I would have done as much to have made you easy as any Man whatever; but since your Doubts, and Fears, and Scruples, make that impossible, I see no other Remedy but to sit down each of us contented as we are.

No, not absolutely impossible, Madam, cry'd I, hastily interrupting her, there is still a Way to make us both happy, at least if being for ever united wou'd make you so, but 'tis what I dare not hope for, and therefore dare not propose; you do not love me to that
exalted

exalted Degree, to consent to grant me what alone will remove all Scruples, and make my Condition to be envied by my whole Sex; then should the Priest that Instant join our Hands, and Doubts, and Fears, and Scruples, be no more.

I should be worse than mad should I believe you, said she, sighing, when to convince you I have not lost my Honour with another, (as you pretend to be inform'd) shall I in earnest yield it up to you, in hopes you will afterwards be just to marry me! Too well I know the Falseness of your Sex; too often have I heard your ungenerous Maxim, that she who yields to one, will with another; and what Reason have I to think you would not say the same? What Reason to believe you would be just, when I had no more to give, or you to ask?

I would, by all that's Sacred, my Charmer, said I, well pleas'd I had brought her so much as to hear my Design mentioned with any Patience; knowing that the Fort that Parleys is not far from Surrendring; and that the only way for a Woman to be safe in such Cases, especially where she likes the Person, is to shut her Ears, and avoid him: Resolving therefore not to lose her for a few Oaths, but to lay closer Siege to her than ever, not fearing, but in some tender unguarded Moment or other, her very Eyes would betray her Wishes, and I should gain my Point.

It

It was no little Difficulty, however after this, to obtain my Ends, notwithstanding I had a bosom Friend within, that pleaded in my Behalf very earnestly, and was bribed by Love to betray the Fort. In short, I have since been convinced, that she had more real Virtue than half the Prudes in the Kingdom, tho' I then believed there was no such thing in the World as a modest Woman; a base heretical Tenet, which I now recant.

For a long Time then did I attack my Fair One; diffident of her own Strength, she carefully avoided all Occasions of being alone with me, insomuch that I sometimes began to doubt of my Success, fearing she would at last have Prudence and Resolution enough no longer to admit my Visits; which made me determine not to let slip the very first Opportunity to urge my Suit as warmly as possible, without having Recourse to brutal Force.

One happy Day then (as I then thought it, tho' I have been since of another Mind) going to my Charmer's as usual, and not seeing her in the Shop, I ran directly into the Parlour, a Liberty I had frequently before taken, without being perceived by her Women behind the Counter, who were very busy in serving Customers. Not finding her there neither, I stole softly up into her Bed-Chamber, where I surprized the Fair One in a very melancholy, yet very inviting Posture. She was in a loose Undress, her Head lay pensively reclined upon her Arms;

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whilst

whilst a silent Tear trickled down her pretty Cheeks, and drop'd in Pearls upon her snowy Bosom, from whence a gentle Sigh would every now and then force its Passage unperceived.

By all these Symptoms, it was easy for me to guess, that her Mind was at that Time employed upon me; she was so buried in Thought, that I was close by her, before she was sensible of my being there; wherefore that I might startle her as little as possible, by my sudden approaching her so unawares, I fell upon my Knees beside her, and seizing her by the other Hand, which hung negligently down by her, and pressing it eagerly to my Lips; why, my lovely Inchantress, said I, do I find you in this disconsolate Posture, fit only for those who are so unhappy as to have incurr'd your Displeasure?

She gave a Shriek, on being so unexpectedly surprized, and fainted away; but being soon recover'd by my Care; why, said she, with a languishing Air, and blushing, do you thus press into my Retirement? And why, O why, do you pry into a Weakness, I would feign hide, if possible, from myself? I caught her in my Arms, press'd her to my Breast, and printing an ardent Kiss upon her ruby Lips, which she received with a sort of unwilling Willingness, my Angel, my Charmer, answered I, What stupid Wretch could see thee thus dissolv'd in Tears, and not use his utmost Endeavours to give you Ease?

And

And can one give you Ease without knowing your Distemper? Oh! that I were Physician enough to cure it! But, I forget, you would not accept me if I were.

At these Words a lively Scarlet overspread her Face, which was succeeded by a deadly Pale, and she had swooned away a second Time but that I upheld her; at last, leave me, I conjure you, said she with a Sigh, leave me to myself, if you have yet any Value or Respect for me; fatal to my Peace was the first Hour we were acquainted, for I must never expect Quiet more. Forbid it Heaven, Madam, replied I hastily; 'twere better I were dead, than that I should cause you one Moment's Uneasiness; by all that's Great and Good, there is nothing in my Power which I would not do to serve you, and make you as happy as your Heart can wish; but confess the Truth, my Fair One, Are not you yourself the only Cause of your own Unhappiness, as well as mine? Does it not proceed from your Diffidence of my Honour? Or else why might not you this Moment put an End to my Pain, by removing all my Scruples, and let to-morrow's Sun see our Fates united for ever? Come, look Consent, my Fairest, and let us both be happy: By thy bright Eyes I swear, nought e'er shall part us, nor shalt thou ever grieve thy Condescension.

Oh! that I durst believe you, said she sighing; but you are a Man, and all your Sex are false; all perjur'd Wretches, born for

Woman's Ruin, and she that trusts is sure to be undone: By Heaven, you shall believe, and trust me too, replied I, drawing her gently towards the Bed, nor shall you be suffer'd to be so much your own Enemy, to defer longer what will make both happy; come, my Treasure, you must, and shall; say, speak the Word. I never can, nor never will consent, answer'd she, faintly struggling; for Heaven's Sake let me go, and oblige me not to expose myself, by calling out for help: How can you pretend to love me, and yet attempt my Ruin? Won't you desist, and must I alarm the House? You would not surely be so imprudent, resum'd I, but to prevent the Worst, I'll put it out of your Power, by smothering you with Kisses, and stopping your Breath.

By this Time I had got her close to the Bed, on which I gently threw her down, she all the while struggling and trembling between her Virgin Fears, and long constrained Desire; I shall draw the Curtain upon what follow'd, which must be left to the Reader's Imagination, and only say that I was lost in Raptures, and happy beyond my utmost Expectation, yet cou'd I not obtain my Wishes, till I had bound my self in a Thousand Oaths to marry her the next Morning.

My first Transports were hardly over, and I was still running over all her Charms with eager Eyes, when my pretty Victim, who was drown'd in Tears, ask'd me if I was not
now

now convinced, and whether I wou'd not be so just to keep my Promise and end all her Tears, by making her my Wife. It would have been barbarous and inhuman then to have deny'd her, tho' it was then the farthest from my Thoughts, wherefore I renew'd all my Vows, kiss'd away her Tears, again enjoy'd her, and left her seemingly contented.

But tho' I had gain'd my Ends, on this deluded Virgin, and look'd upon all my Oaths and Protestations as Wind, I had too much Honour to expose her, and glory in her Ruin, as our modern *Petits Maitres* would have done: On the contrary, I bent all my Thoughts on providing her a Husband, who should repair the Injury I had done her, and form'd a Scheme for that purpose, which I had the Satisfaction afterwards of seeing succeed, and she is now alive, and happy, in the Enjoyment of a tender Husband, with a plentiful Estate, and a numerous Offspring; nor are her Joys imbitter'd by any Sorrows, unless 'tis now and then the Remembrance of such a perjur'd Wretch as my self, whom I dare say she heartily Pities, but no longer Values, or Esteems.

I carry'd this Intrigue with my pretty Mil-
liner so long, that she grew at last very near as insipid to me as if she had been my Wife; not but the Gipsy had excellent Things in her, and was well worth the Trouble I had taken to obtain her. I took then almost as much Pains to get rid of her, as ever I had done to
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gain her; for, although she was really virtuous at the Bottom, and it wou'd have been impossible to seduce her, without having first made my self Master of her Heart, which I cou'd never have done had I not pretended honourable Courtship, and thereby put her off her Guard, besides swearing a hundred Times solemnly to marry her; yet being once won, like all the rest of her Sex, who still doat on their first Undoer, she still loved me with an unbated Fondness, and it was a very difficult Matter to wean her; tho' she was soon sensible that I never intended to make her my Wife: So hard it is to grow indifferent, where once one has really loved, in spite of all the *Failings*, and even *Vices*, of the Person beloved.

Not but I cou'd easily have obtain'd my End, by repeated Sights; but tho' I no longer loved, I esteemed her: And having a real Value for her, as she well deserved, was willing to part fairly; not yet being *Scoundrel* enough, tho' I was *Rake* enough, to use a Woman ill, only for loving me *too well*: Like a certain Person I have now in my Eye, who could not carry his good Manners so far as to use the Bride well even the first Night, tho' she brought him a vast Fortune, when his own Father had discarded him, and no Body would have trusted him a single Groat.

I took Courage then at last, and broke the Ice to her, after this Manner: One Day when she was representing to me with Tears,
that

that our Amour might at last be attended with very ill Consequences, and that she was not altogether sure how it might be with her even then; my Dear answered I, very seriously, what you observe is very true, and has often given me a great deal of Uneasiness, tho' I did not know how to tell you as much. Not but that I cou'd easily provide for any Expences that might happen, let the worst that cou'd befall you, nor shou'd I value it of a Farthing, but I love you too sincerely, not to wish to see you above all Accidents whatsoever; and can't bear the Thoughts of hearing your Character in the least reflected upon; and this in my Opinion can be no way so safely warded against as by a good Husband, and you know it is not in my Power to offer you my service in that Respect, whilst my Father and Uncle are living. I have hitherto behaved my self in such a Manner; that there is not the least Suspicion of any thing between us, wherefore, if you wou'd be advised by me, give me leave to recommend Mr. D — to you as a Gentleman with whom you may be entirely happy, and above Scandal. He has a good Estate, is intirely independent, of an amicable, sweet Temper; has seen but little of the World; and being a Man of the strictest Honour, and very virtuous Principles himself, is far from harbouring an ill Opinion of another. If, with all these good Qualities, you think proper to
accept

accept of him, I will undertake to bring it to bear.

All the Time I was speaking, the disconsolate *Fair-One* hearken'd to me very patiently, but finding I had done, she threw her snowy Arms about my Neck, and bursting into a violent Passion of Crying; Ungrateful Man, *said she*, do I live to hear such a Proposal from you; from you by whom I am undone, and for whom I have given up All! Did ever I think I cou'd live to bear the Reproaches my Conscience daily makes me! As for my first Frailty, 'twas excusable, violent raging Love, your solemn Oaths, my own Youth and Innocence all plead for me, but to persist in the same now when the Mask is pull'd off, and I know you never intend to repair the Injuries you have done me, is a Folly not to be forgiven; yet, blushing, I must own it, the Deceiver still is dear to me, and I cannot bear the Thoughts of parting with him, even tho' certain Ruin and Infamy shou'd be my Portion, as, in all Probability, it one Day will.

For that very Reason, said I my Angel, I gave you this Advice; nor need we part even then; I still may visit you, my Charmer, and still adore you, only the Consequences may not prove so fatal. O talk not of it, said she, hastily interrupting me, I cou'd almost despise you for the Thoughts; What! Do you Imagine I wou'd turn Prostitute, or that I would suffer your Embraces, after being

ing marry'd to another! No, I wou'd sooner suffer Death: Mention it therefore unto me no more, unless grown weary of my Arms, you seek another Fair, and wish from me to be releas'd for ever.

You misinterpret much my good Intentions, Madam, reply'd I, because, out of my Zeal for your Welfare, I wou'd wish to see you advantageously marry'd for Fear of Accidents, it not being in my Power, whilst my Father and Uncle are living, to dispose of myself without their Consent: Is that a Sign I am grown weary of your Arms? No, Madam, it is rather a Sign I prefer your Happiness to my own; but whatever your Opinion may be of me, I am still so much your Friend to wish you wou'd consider of it seriously; you may not every Day meet with such an Offer. It is very well, Sir, answer'd she, haughtily, I see your Drift, and perhaps, may take your Counsel; but suppose I shou'd, How are you sure you can bring your Project to bear? Is Mr. D — 's Heart altogether at your Disposal? Not altogether, Madam, said I, but if I am not mightily mistaken, he is pretty well inclin'd that way already, for I have heard him speak of you in Terms very much to your Advantage; and, to tell you the Truth, he has even desired me to introduce him, but I wou'd not presume to do it, without first asking your Leave. Well, then said she, you may bring him when you please; I will endeavour to set as little Value upon you, as I

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find

find you do upon me; at least continued she with a deep Sigh, if Mr. *D* — shou'd be so weak to settle his Affection upon me, I will punish my fond Heart, for having loved one so ungrateful, by taking one, whom, probably, I never can love.

This was what I wanted, wherefore I never stood to vindicate myself, but took my Leave for that Time, and carrying Mr. *D* — with me, the next Day, to visit her, to pique me, she received him very graciously; this encouraged him so much, that the next Day he ventur'd to go thither by himself, and she still receiving him very civilly, he repeated his Visits every Day 'till the Charms of her Temper, join'd to those of her Person, gain'd an absolute Conquest over him, and he made her a Declaration in Form.

This opened her Eyes, and made her see the Difference between his Passion and mine; in short, beyond my Hopes, she conceived a real Esteem for him, as he well deserved, which by his obliging and tender Behaviour, was soon heighten'd into a sincere Love, and in three Months their Hands were join'd, to their mutual Satisfaction. Some Time afterwards I waited on her to wish her Joy; she received me very courteously, and thank'd me for being the Instrument of her having the best of Husbands, but at the same Time desired me to spare my self the Trouble of ever visiting her for the future, since the Sight of me only brought her Folly to her Remembrance,

brance, and made her abhor both her self and me.

Being thus fairly delivered of my old Mistress to my no small Satisfaction, I was not long idle, but bent all my Thoughts on finding out an Object worthy to succeed her, which I did in a very short Time: This was a young Lady of a good Family, exquisite Beauty, and tolerable Fortune, who having lost her Mother when very young, was educated under the Care of an Aunt, by the Father's Side, to whom I was likewise related. This, together with our being brought up together in our Childhood, gave me the Privilege of visiting her unsuspected, almost at any Hour, and any Season.

Her Aunt was one, who having been marry'd in the Prime of her Years, for Interest, to a Man of threescore, had been easily tempted to be false to his Bed; being conscious therefore of her own Frailty, and not willing her Niece, for whom she had a great Love, should be guilty of the like, she kept a very watchful Eye over her Conduct, and this it was incited me to render all her Vigilancy vain. I took Care however, to give no Suspicion of my Design, which would have broken all my Measures, and pretending an absolute Indifferency for the whole Sex, would often spend an Afternoon, at Back-gammon with the Aunt, with as much seeming Satisfaction as if it had been with the finest Woman in the Kingdom. This soon made me a great

Favourite with the old Lady, who was a great Lover of that Game, and quite lull'd asleep all Mistrust, so that she, who would not have trusted her Niece out of her Sight with another He-Thing, (as she used to call the Men,) would leave me sometimes for Hours together to read a Play or Novel to her; a Service I was always very ready to accept.

These Opportunities I never fail'd improving to my own Advantage, taking all the Pains imaginable to make myself agreeable to my Fair Cousin, (for so I used to call her,) before I attempted to take the least Liberty in the World with her. I had soon the Satisfaction to perceive that my Labour was not all lost, for my Cousin who was in a manner deny'd all Men's Company but mine, and who began to feel within herself a strong Disposition to fulfil the great Command, *Increase and multiply*, cou'd not help discovering by her Eyes, which sparkled with Desire, the secret Wishes of her Soul, and how impatient she was of the Restraint she lay under. I was too well acquainted with the Language of those Tell-tales, to be Ignorant of this favourable Disposition of her Mind; I had nothing then to do but to fix her Desires, which were not settled on any particular Object, on myself, and to conceal my Design from the old Dragon that watch'd the Golden Fruit. The first was very easy, since I had no Rivals to struggle with, and was allow'd Opportunities which were deny'd to every
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Thing in Breeches besides; and the second I accomplish'd without much Difficulty, by affecting not only an indifferent, but even a rude Behaviour to her, when in her Aunt's Company, tho' when alone with her, I was the most complaisant Creature in the Universe.

She did not want Sense enough to take Notice of this Difference in my Carriage, and was for some Time at a Loss how to account for it, I having never given her any Cause to suspect my Design, being resolv'd to be assur'd of my Prey, before I offer'd to make a stoop at it: Whenever therefore her Aunt and she had any Dispute, I was sure to side with the Former, right or wrong. One Day then, being left to our selves, a little after I had been joining with her Aunt, in blaming her for some Trifle or other, she cou'd not forbear asking me the Reason I always took her Aunt's Part against her? Indeed, Cousin answer'd I, I have a very good Reason for so doing; for shou'd I seem to side with you, I know your Aunt so well, that she wou'd suspect something more than Ordinary between us; and not allow me the Liberty of entertaining you in private as I do at present, a Liberty I wou'd not willingly be deprived of at any Rate. I don't know, said she, but you may be in the right of it, for I believe it is your thwarting me always before her, that makes you so great a Favourite with her; for you are the only Man she ventures to leave alone with me. The more is my Happiness, Madam, reply'd I,
gently

gently pressing her Hand, wherefore if you will give me Leave, I will continue to behave in the same Manner, that she may always allow me the same Blessing. O, you flatter me, Cousin, answer'd she blushing; however as you are almost the only Company I have, I shou'd be sorry, to be deprived of that too, so I wou'd not have you alter your Behaviour to me in the least. I am glad, said I, Madam, I have your Permission to dissemble a Rudeness which does not at all suit with my Inclination; I wish you would permit me likewise to declare a Passion for you which is far from being dissembled, and which my Eyes must long ere this have revealed to you. I am entirely a Stranger, Cousin, reply'd she, to the Language of the Eyes, wherefore I can say nothing to that Article, but I shou'd be very sorry you shou'd pitch upon me to make your Jest of; and if you are in earnest, I believe you need not despair; since if you declare yourself to my Father, he will hardly refuse you, and it will be a Means both of delivering me from this Restraint, which is very odious to me, and of saving your self abundance of needless Protestations and Ceremony.

I was pretty much confounded at this frank, and yet prudent Answer, but as I was one not easily put to a Nonplus, I soon recover'd from my Surprise, and had my Reply ready: I am so far of your Opinion, Madam, rejoind I, that if I shou'd declare my self to your
 Father

Father, he wou'd not disdain to accept of me; and shou'd long since have demanded you in Form, but to my Misfortune I have a Father as well as you, on whom I depend, not to mention an Uncle, from whom I have great Expectations. Now to my Sorrow, tho' I look upon you as a Treasure in your self, these two old Gentlemen have no Eyes for either Beauty, or Merit, any farther then they are accompany'd with Riches; and I have some Reasons to believe that they expect a larger Fortune with any one whom they will consent to my taking for Wife, then suits either with your Father's Conveniency, or Inclination to bestow on you; wherefore I must conjure you if my Person is not disagreeable to you, to accept of my Vows in private, till either my Father's, or my Uncle's Death, puts it in my Power to confess my Flame, and espouse you publickly.

I must confess, Sir, said she, that what you alledge is not altogether without Reason; my having more Sisters, and my eldest Brother's running away with the Estate, makes it impossible for my Father to give me a Fortune answerable to what yours may reasonably expect, wherefore as long as your Vows are honourable, and it can be no Discredit to me to receive them, I shall make no Scruple to accept them, till Time causes some favourable Alteration in your Affairs, unless my Father shou'd compel me to give my Hand elsewhere: In the mean while I agree with you, that it
will

will be necessary to be private, or else my jealous Aunt will put a Stop to our having any more Meetings by our selves.

I threw myself at her Feet, embraced her Knees, and thank'd her a thousand Times for this generous Condescension, whilst the deluded *Pair One*, believing me sincere, thought herself very happy in so passionate, and disinterested a Lover; little did she then think she was receiving a Serpent into her Bosom, which was shortly to sting her to Death. I continued my Addresses then at every Opportunity, and my repeated Oaths and Protestations having banish'd all Distrust of my Infidelity, or dishonest Intentions, she began insensibly to suffer me to take more Liberties with her then she wou'd ever otherwise have allow'd; Love, or call it if you please by a more homely Name, is of an encroaching Nature, never satisfy'd with what is granted till it has got all, and there is no more to give, so it was with me.

At first indeed I presum'd no farther then a Pressure of the Hand, an Embrace, a Kiss, or so; but when, by thus toying with her, I had rais'd her Inclinations to the utmost Height, which I cou'd easily perceive by her wishing Eyes, I ventur'd to let my Hands rove farther, and commit several Amorous Trespasses, (still laying the Blame on the Violence of my Love, and saying that as we were as good as Man and Wife in the Sight of Heaven, there cou'd be no Harm in it;) till by Degrees I even proceeded
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so far as to invade *Love's tempting Fort*, and let them stray all o'er the Sacred *Mount of Venus*.

This was at first a sacrilegious Theft, for which nothing cou'd atone; and I thought I shou'd ne'er have pacify'd her: But Time, which makes all things easy, brought her at last to pardon this also; she kindly imputing it only to the Excess of my Passion, which generally carries its own excuse along with it, among the Fair Sex. I did not however, attempt either to seize, or to sue for, the last Favour, not being sure but I might be surprized, even in the Height of all my Raptures, by the sudden coming of the Aunt, or some of her Servants.

I deferr'd this last Effort then till this Family was to remove into the Country, which was to be in a short Time; not doubting but I shou'd have an Invitation to come and see them, and that during my stay there, some Opportunity wou'd offer, when I might securely commit this Amorous Theft, and rifle all her Virgin Charms, without Fear of Interruption. As I foresaw, so it happen'd; the Family went to their Country Seat, about forty Miles off, and the Aunt invited me very kindly to come and pass a Week or two there; which Invitation, as may be well thought, I very readily accepted.

Accordingly, after they had been there about a Month, during which I sent my Servant thither twice or thrice, on pretence of

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enquiring after their Welfare; but in (Reality with Letters to my Cousin, that she might imagine she was always in my Thoughts) I took Horse and went down after them; and was received with open Arms by the Aunt, and with all the Raptures imaginable by the Niece, as soon as we were together in private. Fortune, which design'd to befriend me, had so order'd it, that the Chamber assign'd me for my Lodging join'd to that where my Cousin lay; all the other Rooms which were tolerably Furnished, being taken up by some Company, who happen'd to come thither accidentally the Evening before, to spend a Night or two with them.

As the Weather was sultry hot, the Evenings very long and Pleasant, and Opportunities very scarce in the Day Time, by reason the Aunt and Niece were both very much taken up with entertaining the other Company, I begg'd on my Charmer to give me leave to visit her in her Chamber, after all the rest of the House were retired to their Apartments. She consented, and two Nights together I spent some Hours there, without even offering to take those Liberties I had frequently done before. By this means I lull'd asleep all Suspicion of my having any ill Design, and she began even to fancy that my Passion abated, and that I did not love her with that Ardour as before. I perceived her Uneasiness, which did not displease me; and as I was sensible of the Cause, I judg'd she
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wou'd rather pardon my taking yet greater Freedoms, than that I shou'd still behave in the same Manner, which she imagin'd proceeded from my slighting her.

The third Night I again visited her in her Chamber, as usual; and staid with her till I was sure all the Family were in Bed, after which I took my Leave, as if I intended to go to sleep likewise. But far different was my Intention; for no sooner had I slipt off all my Cloaths to my Night-Gown, but I returned to her Chamber, and knocking softly at the Door, pretended I had forgot something of Importance, which I must of necessity communicate to her that Night: By this Time she was quite undress'd likewise, and just stepping into Bed; but the Coldness of my Behaviour that very Night having left her no Room to suspect I intended any Violence, and being extremely desirous of knowing what I had to say, she slipt on one Petticoat, threw her Gown loose about her, and made no Scruple of opening the Door.

Being entered, I clasp'd her in my Arms, vow'd she never appear'd so enchanting as at that Moment, and let my roving Hands wander over all her hidden Charms, whilst all the While I smother'd her with Kisses: when by this means I found by her short Breath, frequent Sighs, panting Breast, and sparkling Eyes, that I had rais'd her to the utmost Pitch of ardent Desire; I pretended a sudden Concern for her Health, and begg'd she wou'd

get into Bed, for Fear of catching Cold; telling her that what I had to say wou'd take up some Time, and that I wou'd sit down by her, and disclose it to her; but that I shou'd never forgive myself, if by detaining her undress'd in the Cold, I shou'd occasion her a Fit of Sickness.

With some little Difficulty she comply'd, having first sworn me not to offer her any Violence; but no sooner was she between the Sheets, then I threw off my Gown, leapt in after her, clasp'd her eagerly in my Arms, and stopping her Mouth with Kisses, put it out of her Power either to shriek out, or get away, had she been so inclin'd. As soon as I allowed her the Liberty to speak, she began to expostulate with me about my breaking my Oath, in coming to Bed to her: My Life, my Charmer said I, I have not broken my Oath; I did not swear not to come to Bed, but not to offer you any Violence, and what greater Violence is there in Kissing and Embracing you when in Bed, then when up? I swear again, I will Trespas no farther then your self shall give me Leave, and yet what pity 'tis, now when we are both equally wishing and desiring, to languish out the Prime of our Days, when it lies in your Power to make us both happy! Say my Angel, are you not determin'd to be mine, as I'm resolved to be for ever yours, What hinders then but we may now be blest? O, speak the Word, my Love, and give Consent, and I'll not envy Monarchs

Monarchs on their Thrones. O press me not, my Dearest, to my Ruin, said the half-yielding *Fair-One*; shou'd I consult my Heart, Heaven knows there is nothing, that I cou'd deny thee; but be not thou ungenerous, nor take the Advantage of a Virgin's Weakness, or I too sure, too sure shall be undone; Stay then till *Hymen's* Knot has made us one, and then I'll willingly resign my Charms, nor shalt thou be deny'd thy utmost Wishes. I cannot wait till then, my lovely Charmer, answer'd I; my Blood is all on fire to possess thee, and I were not a Man cou'd I forego thee; how then can you expect it as I am, an ardent, passionate, impatient Lover! then let us lose no longer Time my Angel, but yield and meet my Love with equal Ardour. And will you then be true, answer'd the quite vanquish'd Maiden, will you be always mine, and shall the Priest in private join our Hands, and give a Sanction to our stolen Embraces? He shall, by Heavens, my Fairest, reply'd I, all in Raptures, if Fate shou'd ever make it necessary, before my Father's Death allows me to proclaim, and glory in my Choice. Then take me, take me, to thy longing Arms, cry'd the Soul-ravish'd, and half-dying Virgin, I am too happy if you prove but true, and shall for ever bless the happy Minute. 'Tis not in Words to express what follow'd, wherefore I shall only say that she gave me Joys, such as I had never before experienc'd; and that I left her not till the

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intruding Sun, which discover'd to me all her naked Charms, told me it was Time for me to retire, if I wou'd be undiscover'd, and not expose her.

For some Time did we continue our Amorous Thefts with mutual Raptures, nor was I at all satiated with her Charms, in short, she pleas'd me to that exquisite Degree, that I should certainly for once have kept my Word, and shou'd have marry'd her, had it not been for her own Indiscretion. Our frequent Embraces had the Effect that was reasonably to be expected; She had some Reason to suspect her self with Child, but was not certain of it, when an intimate Acquaintance invited her Father, at whose House she then was, with all his Family, to spend the rest of the Summer Season with him, at a fine Seat he had in *Nottinghamshire*. The Thing was propos'd, resolv'd on, and put in Execution in three Days, so that the unhappy *Fair-One* had no Opportunity to give me Notice of this Journey, or of her Condition; not daring to trust a Secret of that Importance to a Letter, and I being at that Time in the *West*, whither my Father had sent me to settle some Affairs, his ill State of Health not permitting him to go thither himself.

On my returning to Town, I went directly to make a Visit to my beloved Mistress, and was not a little surprized when I heard she was gone into *Nottinghamshire*, for the whole Summer: But my Surprize was greatly

ly increas'd some time after, when one Evening, being at *Hazard*, at a noted Gaming-House near *Covent Garden*, her Brother enter'd the Room, and coming up to me very abruptly, told me he must speak with me that Instant. I was not then in the best Humour in the World, having just lost a considerable Sum, which I was bent upon retrieving: Wherefore not suspecting his Business, I answer'd, that I was engaged for the Present; but if he wou'd let me know were he wou'd be in an Hour or two, I wou'd certainly wait upon him, or I wou'd call upon him in the Morning, if that wou'd be sufficient.

D—m your Trifling, said the rash hot-headed young Man, I won't be put off so, nor will I leave you, now you once are found; Come then along with me this very Moment, unless you'd have me treat you very ill. I am not us'd, reply'd I, to such Language, nor know I how I have deserved it from you; I beg you therefore to explain your self, unless you'd have me think you are in Liquor, or, what is worse, distracted. Hark in your Ear then, said he; you're a Villain; you know my youngest Sister, that's enough, then think what you've deserved and what I want.

I know not what you want, reply'd I, all in a Fury, but this I know, the name of a Villain ne'er belonged to me, nor have I e'er deserved it at your Hands; so take it to your self, nor tempt me farther, unless you wou'd
pull

pull Ruin on your Head; thus far I may forgive. So shall not I, thou monstrous harden'd Villain, answer'd the enrag'd Brother, nor is the Injury thou hast done our Family to be atton'd for but by Blood; so without more Delay go strait with me, and give me Satisfaction instantly.

You shall not need to ask it twice, said I, so lead the Way, I'm ready; but know, rash Fool, had you not thus provok'd me, I never meant you or your Sister wrong; But now 'tis past, and she may curse her Folly, and you yours. By this Time we were come into the Street, both equally enraged, and breathing Vengeance; accordingly we drew, and for some Time he push'd on me so briskly, that I began to fear I should be worsted, being slightly wounded in three several Places: At last, however, blinded by his Fury, and eager to dispatch me, he ran upon my Sword, and drop'd that Instant breathless at my Feet.

As I believed him dead, in which Case it would have been unsafe for me to stay; he being Heir to a considerable Estate, and having powerful Relations; I retired into the Gaming-House, went out at the Back-Door, hasten'd down to the Water-Side, took a Boat to *Gravesend*, and made the best of my way to *Dover*, in order to go to *Calais*. From thence I wrote Word to my Father where I was, desiring him to remit me some Money, and send my Cloaths after me as soon as possible; to the End that I might secure myself,

till he had consulted whether it was advisable for me to surrender myself, or not. In answer to this, my Father dispatch'd a Servant, in whom he could confide, with Money, and Orders to me to go for *Calais* forthwith, whither he wou'd send my Things after me, if I intended to be secure; for they were every where in pursuit of me, and the very worst was to be apprehended if I shou'd be taken, since there was no hopes of my Antagonist's Life, tho' he was not yet Dead. The Servant aded that Time was pretious, that he did not know how soon those who were in quest of me might be there, and that he was commanded not to part from me till he had seen me safe away.

This was a very ticklish Point; the Wind blew directly in to the Harbour, so that neither the Packet-Boat, nor any other Vessel, cou'd get out of the Port; and if I stay'd I did not know but I might be seiz'd every Moment, and what the Consequence of that might be, no Body cou'd tell, considering, I had such powerful Adversaries to deal with. There was no Way left then but to hire an open Boat, to carry me off at all Hazards; and it was not without great Difficulty, and paying an exorbitant Price, that any one was to be got, who wou'd run the Venture, the Passage being something dangerous. At last, however, I agreed for a ten-Oar Boat, in which I went off a little above the Town, about Ten at Night, for it was impossible to

get out of the Harbour, the Tide setting in at the Peer very strong at that Time.

The Weather was very calm when we set out, and continued so till we were got about half-way over; when the Clouds gather'd on all Sides, and it began to blow pretty briskly, full in our Teeth. After some Time, it grew so dark, that we cou'd not see a Boat's length, and the Wind rose still higher and higher, till it was a perfect Storm, and our Boat at every Moment was toss'd Mountains high, so that I expected every Wave wou'd break in upon us, and send us to the Bottom. The Boat's Crew themselves began to be pretty much terrified, their Oars being of very little, if any, Use to them, to stem the Tide, so that they were forced to let her drive with the Sea: Hereupon they fell a Swearing at one another, each blaming his Fellow for persuading him to undertake the Voyage, if I may so call such a short Passage, as that between *Dover* and *Calais*. For my own Part, I must confess, I sometimes wish'd I had staid in *England* at all Adventures, and run the Hazard of a dry Death a-shore, rather than have an unconscionable Drench of Salt Water, and make Food for Fish. I put the best Face I cou'd, however, upon the Matter, and opening a large Bottle of Brandy, of which I had taken Care to provide a sufficient Quantity, gave it among the Sailors to drink, bidding them ply their Oars, and be of good Heart, and we shou'd do well enough. The Brandy had a
very

very good Effect upon them, and made them a little Tractable, whereas before there was nothing but Swearing, Cursing, and Confusion to be heard ; and the Storm abating about break of Day, we found our selves almost as high as *Boulogne*, eight Leagues distant from *Calais*, where we arrived however very safe about seven in the Morning.

The Manner of my coming over in an open Boat, without any Baggage, but a little Linnen in a Handkerchief, and without any Attendants, altho my Garb, which was pretty rich, shew'd plainly that I was not used to travel in that Manner, made the *French* suspect, and not without Reason, that there was something extraordinary in my venturing on such a dangerous and unusual Passage. Accordingly, when I was carried before the Governour, as is customary for all Strangers who land there, he examined me very particularly about my Quality, and the Occasion of my coming. I told him in few Words, that I was an *English* Gentleman, that I had unfortunately had a Quarrel with a young Man of Fortune, whom I had left for dead, and that I was forced to come over in an open Boat, because I was close pursued, and neither the Packet-Boat, nor any other Vessel, cou'd get out of the Harbour.

He received me with abundance of Civility, and seem'd very well satisfied with my Answers, tho' he did not believe me, as I found afterwards. It was much about the

Time of the Rebellion, and he had taken it into his Head, that I was one of those unfortunate Gentlemen engaged therein, and had made my Escape from *Preston*. As all the *French* are naturally well-Wishers to the *Pretender* and his Party, this Suspicion did not turn at all to my Disadvantage, but made him receive me with yet more Respect, than he would otherwise have done, and he gave me a very sensible Mark thereof two or three Days after.

The *French*, tho' they are generally well-bred, are apt to be pretty opinionated of themselves, and to have a very mean Opinion of all other Nations, especially the *English*, in comparison with their own. This I found before I had been many Hours with them; and I must confess it provok'd my Spleen, and I was resolv'd, if possible, to give them another sort of a Notion of us. As I spoke *French*, as well as *English*, having been taught it by my Father's Care, even before I learnt my Mother Tongue, I kept Company generally with the *French*, and did not, like the generality of our Nation, who travel, frequent only my own Countrymen.

Being at the Coffee-House then, with some *French* Gentlemen, they were very much surpriz'd at my talking their Language so well, and they were much more so, when I told them, it was an Accomplishment which was very common amongst all the better Sort. Whilst I was there, the Daughter of the House,

Houfe, who was very pretty, was learning to Dance, and some of them whisper'd her, to desire me to dance a Minuet with her, imagining I shou'd do it but very aukwardly; she did so, and they were mightily disappointed; for it having been an Exercise I had taken Delight in, I not only danced very well, but even exceeded any of them, not excepting even the Dancing-Master himself. This done, among other Discourse, they began to talk of the Campaigns in *Flanders* in the late War, and some of them who were in the Army, took upon them to affirm, that they had seen several of our *English* Officers who were in Garrison at *Dunkirk*, decide their Quarrels by Boxing, whenever they had any Difference. I told them, that this was very strange to me, for they did not use to do so at Home; however, I cou'd not contradict them, having never been there; but that it was not very much to their Credit, if it was true, since they had *box'd* them so *soundly* at *Hochsted*, *Ramillies*, and *Malplaquet*, that they *never durst Face* them afterwards.

This Repartee gall'd them a little, and the more, because it was matter of Fact, wherefore they did not attempt to rally the *English* any more at that Time; on the contrary, there being a Ball that Night at one of the Principal Inhabitant's, two of them, who were Officers in the Garrison, offer'd their Service to introduce me there. As I had then no better Engagement upon my Hands, I accept-
ed

ed their Offer, and accordingly they came in the Evening to the Post-House, where I lodg'd, to conduct me thither. Not expecting them so soon, I was quite undress'd when they came, and had order'd a Fowl to be got ready for my Supper, designing to eat a Mouthful before I went. Hereupon I desired them to fowl a Plate with me, bespoke another Fowl, a fine Sallad, and a Dish of Soop, without which, a *Frenchman* wou'd think himself undone, and in the mean while began to put on my Cloaths, having first ask'd Leave of them to take that Liberty.

Supper being brought in, we were very merry, and for some Time they were excellent good Company, diverting me with a Hundred pretty Songs, in which the *French* certainly exceed all the Nations in the World. But there being no want of Wine, and they drinking of it pretty plentifully, the Fumes of the *Burgundy* began to get into their Heads, to which their Singing contributed not a little, and they grew very Exceptionous; in short, it proceeded so far, that they downright quarrell'd, and drew upon each other in my very Chamber.

As I was afraid of this, from the very first of their begining to jar, I had interpos'd several Times to reconcile them, but to no purpose, for as fast as one Difference was made up, some fresh Dispute arose. Enrag'd at their ill Manners, and dreading the ill Consequence of a Quarrel in my Room,
which

(which in *France*, is yet more dangerous than in *England*;) I at last told them, that it was using me very ill; that whoever was the Aggressor, I should look upon the Injury done to myself, and that if either of them offer'd to draw first, I would certainly be the Second. This, however, did not prevent their Drawing, whereupon snatching up my Sword, which lay upon a Table, I instantly did the same, and keeping my Eye upon him who faced me, struck down their Swords, and at and at the same Instant clapping my Leg behind him who was next the Door, which open'd upon a pair of Stairs that went from the Gallery into the Yard, tript up his Heels, and sent him from the Top to the Bottom. Well was it for him I did so, for the other at the same Time making a home Pass at him, had certainly been through his Body, had not his Fall prevented it, by the Sword's going over his Head; and before he cou'd recover, having over-lung'd himself, I clos'd in with him run him through the Arm, and disarm'd him.

The Fall of the First into the Yard, where he lay for dead, had by this Time brought the People of the House about us, who secured us, I willingly yielding up my Sword, and carried us before the Governour to be examined, to whom I very readily told the whole Truth of the Story. My not being both quite dress'd, and Sober, and their being Drunk, and having had high Words, which the Servants of the Inn avouch'd, together
with

with my Sword's laying in the Scabbard upon a Table, made the Governour very easily believe I had told him nothing but what was Fact: Wherefore, as soon as Word was brought that the other was come a little to himself, being only stunn'd with the Fall, he released me, and committed them both into Custody, making abundance of Apologies for the Brutality of his Countrymen. Not content with this, he would have broke them both, but I interpos'd and pleaded for them, thinking them already sufficiently punish'd for a Drunken Quarrel, the one by his Wound, and the other by his Bruises: However, he continued them Prisoners for some Days, nor would he release them until they had both ask'd my Pardon, and thank'd me for interceeding in their Behalf. I ow'd this extraordinary Civility of the Governour's, to his entirely believing me of the Pretender's Party, as he told me afterwards.

Tho' I shou'd have been by no means pleased before-hand, at having such a Quarrel, yet the Catastrophe was very agreeable to me; as it gave me an Opportunity of mortifying the Gentry, who had affirm'd, that our *English* Officers used to decide their Differences by *Boxing* when at *Dunkirk*. Accordingly, I went to the Coffee-House next Morning, and the Discourse turning about our Quarrel, which had made some Noise, *Well Gentlemen*, said I, with a disdainful Smile, *You see the English don't always box.* They did not much

much like the Banter, notwithstanding which; they carried it off very well, thinking that better than to run the Hazard of the same Fate with their Countrymen; and one of them answer'd very gallantly, laughing; *Well then, since you talk French so well, dance so well, fence so well, and in short do every Thing so well, What the Devil do you come here for, as so many of your Nation do every Day? What do you think we come for,* reply'd I, laughing in my Turn, *but to help drink your Wine, and Kiss your Wives?*

As my Cloaths, and some Remittances which I expected, were not yet come from *England*, and *Calais* is not a Place that affords much Diversion, I resolv'd to take a Trip to *Dunkirk*, and *St. Omers*, to see the Fortifications of the one, and the *Jesuit's* College at the other. I must own, both of them satisfied my Curiosity very well, altho', the one was in a great Measure dismantled; but I met with an Adventure at the other, which for its Singularity deserves particularly to be recounted.

There was then quarter'd at *St. Omers*, a Brigade of *Irish* Officers, who were upon Half-Pay, or reform'd as they call it: Some of these happening to be about half a League out of the Town, diverting themselves in a little Hamlet that lay upon the Road, and seeing me as I rode by, paid me an extraordinary Respect, as I then thought, they being absolute

Strangers to me; for they got all off their Seats to a Man, and made me each of them a very low Bow.

I reflected upon it, however, no more, and it was quite out of my Head, when, about two Hours after, being in my Chamber at the Post-House, where I had taken up my Lodging, my Servant, whom I hired at *Calais*, came and inform'd me, that about a Dozen Gentlemen, who seem'd by their Garb to be Officers, desired to know if I was to be seen.

Being very sure there was no Body in St. *Omers* who could have the least Knowledge of me, not having been above five Days out of *England*, and it being the first Time I had ever been abroad, I could not imagine what their Business could be: As I had no Reason, however, to apprehend any Harm, I order'd them to be admitted. Accordingly they came in, and were so full of their Ceremonies, that I was quite confounded; whereupon I told them in *French*, that I did not know how I had merited all these Civilities, not having ever seen one of them before, to the best of my Knowledge, and desired they would acquaint me with their Business.

Their Answer was, that they hoped I wou'd not be offended, but that their Business was only to shew their Duty, in paying me their Respects, and to know if I had any Commands for them. Hereupon turning to the Boy that had

had serv'd me as a Guide, and understood *English*, being Son to the Mistress of the Post-House at *Calais*; *The Devil take me*, said I, *if I can imagine what the Men mean, or what they would be at.*

My speaking both *French* and *English* perfectly well, confirm'd them in their Error, and one of them answer'd, *SIRE, If it is your Pleasure to be Incognito, we know our Duty, and after having once paid our Respects, shall take no farther Notice of you then you are pleas'd to allow.*

The Word *Sire*, which is never us'd in *French* but to a *Crown'd Head*, put me out of all Patience; whereupon, thinking they made a Jest of me, What! *Gentlemen*, said I, do you come here to banter me, Who the Devil do you take me for? *For our King*, answer'd they all with one accord, *If your Majesty pleases, if not, for what you please. Heyday!* Said I, still more confounded, *What! are you all mad, or have you a Mind to make me so? Far be it from your Majesty's most faithful Servants, replied they, to have any such Design, we wish all your Subjects in the three Kingdoms were as well affected to you as our Selves; Then would you, long ere this, have been restored to the Throne of your great Ancestors the Stuarts, nor should we languish our selves in Exile.*

I began then in some Measure to apprehend what they meant, and who they were, know-

ing there were a great many *Irish* Officers in the *French* Service; but this served only to heighten my Surprize: *Why sure, Gentlemen,* said I, *you are not serious, and you don't take me in earnest for the Chevalier de St. GEORGE! If you do, I'll assure you, you are egregiously mistaken, and I would not have you continue in your Error any longer.*

Notwithstanding this Affelevation, they persisted in their Opinion, as I found afterwards; but thinking I was resolved to be *Incognito*, and that they shou'd offend me by endeavouring to pry more into my Secrets than I was willing, they seem'd to believe me, ask'd my Pardon, and took their Leave. What contributed to lead them into this Error and to confirm them therein, as they own'd afterwards was, that the *Pretender* had at that Time left *Avignon*, and it was not known whither he was gone; that it was expected he wou'd embark at *Calais* or *Dunkirk* for *Scotland*, where they were then in actual Rebellion in his Favour, and that I was much about the same Size, wore a black Wig, and resembled him as they all assured me, to a very great Degree: The Truth of it is, I have seen a Picture drawn for him that was more like me, than one I had drawn on purpose for me.

Be that as it will, their Mistake did me no Prejudice, but, on the contrary, was of great Service, in making me pass my Time,
during

during my Stay there, with all the Pleasure imaginable; for the next Morning, when I was ready to go out, having order'd my Servant to hire me a Coach for the Day, and he going to enquire of the People of the Inn for that purpose, return'd immediately with Answer, that I need not be at that Trouble, for there was a Coach below waiting for me, with Servants to attend me. Surpriz'd at the Novelty, I sent to ask whose Coach and Servants it was, and by whose Order they came: Word being immediately brought me, it was the Governour's, I wou'd have declin'd accepting it, but that the Obligation wou'd have been still the same, wherefore I got into it, and the first Use I made thereof was to go to him, and return him Thanks for his extraordinary Civility, so much beyond my Deserts, Quality, or Expectation. The Governour smil'd, and told me, there needed no Compliments on that Score, since he had so great a Veneration for the *King of England*, (meaning the *Pretender*, whom he call'd so,) that he honour'd his Resemblance wherever he found it, which was the Reason of his sending his Equipage to attend me; having been inform'd, and he must confess he was of the same Opinion, that it was impossible any Likeness shou'd be more perfect. This wou'd have been a very well turn'd Compliment, had he not been deceiv'd in me as well as the others; for being pre-
possessed

possessed by what they had told him, he really thought he found the same Resemblance in me, and actually believ'd me the *Pretender*: Nor was either He, or the Officers convinced of the contrary, as they all own'd, till about a Week afterwards, when they heard that he was in *Scotland*.

It was whisper'd then all over the Town, that the *Pretender* was there *Incognito*, which produced this Effect, that every one strove who shou'd first have the Honour of Entertaining me, and every Day some fresh Party of Pleasure was started to divert me. In short, I cou'd never be alone, but was invited daily to Balls, Conforts, and magnificent Entertainments; wherein none signaliz'd themselves more, then those Ingenious Gentlemen the *Jesuits*, who not only treated me very sumptuously in their College, which is very rich and beautiful, but diverted me very agreeably with a Mask, which their Scholars got up in four Days, and acted to Admiration.

Nothing disgusted me, but that I had too many Eyes upon me, and cou'd never be left to my self; for had it been otherwise, I believe on my Conscience, in the Height of their Civilities, I might have commanded any Favour from the most reserv'd Lady there, and she wou'd have gloried in the Conquest.

Nor did their Civilities cease, even after they found their Mistake; the Governour's
Coach

Coach still attended me during three Days longer than I staid there, and my Levee was every Morning crowded with Persons of the best Fashion in that City, who came to take me out to some new Diversion. In Return for all this Respect and Civility therefore, I thought I cou'd do no less, than invite them all in general to a handsome Entertainment, which I made for that purpose; and which was closed by a Ball, that lasted till Morning, and at which there was a more numerous and splendid Assembly, than I shall ever see again at any Entertainment of my making: In short, every one went away very well pleased, and with a better opinion of *English* Politeness than they had ever before entertain'd.

The Company being all gone, I took a few Hours Repose, which done, I spent the Remainder of the Day in taking Leave of those who had laid so many Obligations upon me; and especially the Governour, to whom it was not in my Power to make a suitable Acknowledgment. I wou'd fain have presented him with my own Watch which was *Tompion's*, *English* Watches being very much esteemed Abroad, but cou'd not prevail with him to accept thereof, on any other Terms, than receiving his own in Exchange, which was as good, because he was sensible I had not another by me. What confounded me more than all the Rest, was that I cou'd not persuade any of his Servants to take one Farthing of me, by any Means whatever, he having
strictly

strictly enjoin'd them to the contrary, on pain of losing their Places.

The next Morning I return'd to *Calais*, where my Baggage and Servants were by this Time arrived; whereupon I set out in a few Days for *Paris*, resolving to see that famous City before my Return to *England*, tho' I was inform'd by a Letter from my Father, that my Antagonist was pretty well recover'd of his Wound, and was past all Danger, so that I might come Home when I pleased.

So many Accounts have been already publish'd of *Paris*, *Versailles*, *Fontainbleau*, and *Marly*, that I shall say nothing upon that Head, tho' every one who goes there may see fresh Wonders, of which others have taken no Notice: Besides, it wou'd be quite foreign to my purpose, which is only to mention my own Adventures.

I had not been long at *Paris* before I receiv'd News of my Uncle's dying, and leaving me a considerable Fortune, most part in ready Money, which enabled me to set up a splendid Equipage, and take my full swing of Pleasure in that City. As much a Rake as I was however, I had Generosity enough to be concern'd at his Loss, he having always been particularly indulgent to me; but as a fat Sorrow is best, it wore off pretty soon, and I became, by Degrees, a most faithful and zealous Worshipper, at the Altars of the God of Wine, and the Goddess of Beauty.

In

In the Course of these my Devotions, or to speak more intelligibly, in the Pursuit of these Pleasures, I fell into several ugly Scrapes, during my Stay at *Paris*, from which my Purse alone cou'd not always extricate me, but my Person sometimes came off by the Lee, and I smarted in the Flesh for them more ways then one. This did not deter me, however, from going on still at the same Rate, not considering that neither my Body was Iron, nor my Purse inexhaustible, but of this more hereafter, in its due Place.

As I was now Master of a much better Income than ever I had been before, my Views began to be more exalted; and instead of deluding innocent Virgins, or contenting myself with Women of the Town, as I had done hitherto, I look'd out for an experienced Mistress, of some Rank and Quality, in the Conquest of whom I might acquire some Reputation: For I was so true an *Englishman*, that I bore all the *French* a Grudge, and long'd to arm some of them with good Brow-Antlers.

The first I pitch'd upon for this End, was the Wife to a Counsellor of the Parliament of *Paris*; a Lady of incomparable Beauty, whose Sparkling Eyes, which she well knew how to manage, would have tempted a Hermet and put Life and Vigour into fourscore. This enchanted *Syren*, with whom I became acquainted for my Sins, at an Assembly sung

admirably, danced to Perfection, and had Wit at will; in short, she was the most agreeable Companion that a Man could possibly wish to spend an Hour with. But with all these Accomplishments, she had a most Mercenary Soul, was by Nature a Coquet, and a finish'd Jilt; in a Word she was able to have given even *Ovid* Lessons in the *Art of Love*, and would have beaten him at his own Weapons.

It is no Wonder then that this She Devil, such as I have describ'd her, led me a pretty Wild-Goose Chase, and in some Measure reveng'd the Injuries I had done her Sex: For after keeping me for some Time in suspense, and draining from me a considerable Sum in Presents, by way of Return for some little Liberties she was pleas'd to allow me to draw me on, she pretended at last to yield to my Desires, and fix'd a Night for the making me happy.

When the appointed Hour came, I went thither full of Expectations, and found a very handsome Supper prepared, at which she entertain'd me with all the Sprightliness and Good Humour imaginable; this done, she led me into her Bed-Chamber, and desired me to undress and get into Bed, and she would follow, and to make me believe she was in Earnest, did actually undress herself to her under Petticoat: But then putting out the Candle on pretence of Modesty, she conveys
into

into Bed in her stead, a common Whore, whom she had planted in her Closet for that Purpose, and who in Return for all my Presents, gave me one, which I did not claw off in a Hurry, and which for some Time made me abhor the Sight of the whole Sex.

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